

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1852.

## CONGRESS.

Though Congress has already been in session almost five months, the Members seem to be in no haste to terminate the Session. Both Houses took a holiday on Saturday last.

Thus far, owing to the intrusion of some subjects foreign to the duties of Congress, and others (the printing question, for example) magnified into an undue consequence, and mystified by attempts to discuss details with which it would require little less than a five years' apprenticeship to make the younger members thoroughly acquainted—the Kosuth advent, besides, and its incidents, and his doctrines cast like firebrands into the halls of both National and State Legislatures—the action of Congress has been embarrassed to such a degree that hardly any question of real consequence has yet been determined at this session.

There is one consolation, however, which presents itself on this as on all similar occasions, which is, that much deliberation, caution, and even procrastination, is preferable to hasty and rash resolves; and that, tardy as the movements of Congress are, there is no need of apprehensions that all the measures of legislation necessary to keep the Government in regular and useful operation will not be accomplished before the session closes.

## GREAT FRESHET IN THE POTOMAC.

The prolonged and heavy rains, which, commencing on Sunday morning last, and continuing almost ever since without cessation, have produced a rise of water in the Potomac exceeding whatever of the kind has been witnessed here by the oldest inhabitant, with probably a single exception. The flood of 1847 rose higher than any from 1784 to that period, but the present surpasses that of 1847 by at least a foot in height, so as to approach very nearly, if not quite to equal, the greatest recorded freshet of the last century.

Yesterday morning the river had risen so high as to force the water in the Washington Canal much beyond its banks, and consequently to fill all the sewers, and cellars connected with them, in the lower part of the city, in some cases to four and five feet in depth.

A little before noon the water and drift-wood at the Little Falls Bridge had so accumulated as to be too powerful to be resisted, when the Bridge gave way, and the wooden frame, divided into three sections, floated down the stream, striking the second pier on the western side of the Alexandria Branch Canal Aqueduct at Georgetown. Pressed forward by the rushing torrent, the largest section, and then the two others, were swept under the second span of the aqueduct, the roof tearing away in its passage two or three only of the wooden braces supporting the trunk of the canal, which a few hours' work will be sufficient to supply. About noon two of the three sections of the Little Falls Bridge, sailing apart from each other, struck the Long Bridge at the framing on the western extremity with resistless force, bearing away two spans, nearly all of which accompanied the assailing masses down the river.

In Georgetown the damage sustained by the citizens reaches, if it does not exceed, fifty thousand dollars. The greater part of Water street is submerged to a depth of from three to four feet. Many thousands of barrels of flour in warehouses are damaged, besides groceries and stores of various kinds. The losses suffered by the dealers in lumber and fire-wood will be severe; in all about ten thousand dollars.

Notwithstanding strenuous exertions to prevent it, several of the vessels and boats lying along the margin of the river parted from their moorings and were with difficulty rescued from a worse fate. We saw the brigantine *Fidelis* anchored on the river bank, several yards in from the edge of the river in its ordinary state. From this position she was afterwards borne away, and had attained a comparatively safe position at nightfall, on the flats southeast of the Observatory. The schooner *United*, after being whirled around by the current, and brushing away, with the loss of her own flying jib-boom, a portion of the roof of a frame warehouse, grounded on the wharf by the side of which she had been lying.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal has, no doubt, severely suffered. Two or three breaches took place within ten miles of Georgetown, and for some distance the tow-path is supposed to have been five feet under water. The full extent of damage cannot be known for many days yet.

In Washington considerable loss and injury has been sustained by the lime, coal, wood, and lumber merchants, along the canal. Numbers of persons in boats were engaged in recovering the drift fire-wood and lumber floating in all directions. At 7 o'clock last evening there was about eighteen inches of water on 12th street, between Pennsylvania avenue and the Canal bridge, and all communication that way by foot passengers from the Island was stopped.

On the river wharves some damage was suffered, in firewood and timber.

Soon after the Long Bridge was disrupted the drawkeepers at the draw on the city side judiciously opened the draw, and thus kept persons from unnecessary risk by being present on any part of the Bridge.

We were informed that the difference of level between the water on the upper and lower side of the Long Bridge, particularly at the causeway, reached over two feet.

Besides the breach made at the western extremity of the Bridge, we remarked another, a little distant from the further end of the causeway.

The navigation of the river by our best steamboats was at least hazardous. There were great quantities of drift-wood afloat, and it was difficult to effect landings at many of the wharves.

Alexander's Island, better known as the site of Jackson City, suffered more than usual. Mr. Hughes's family, with the exception of Mr. H. himself, wisely left their residence there yesterday morning, before the breaking of the bridge, or they would have been compelled to submit to the greatest discomforts. We learn that Mr. Hughes's meat-house, containing several hundred dollars' worth of butchers' meats, was carried off bodily. This flood must very seriously detract from the

agricultural capability and value of Alexander's Island, for the present year at least.

Of the damages sustained at Alexandria we have yet had no means of learning, but suppose they may not be inconsiderable.

The subjoined Telegraphic despatch, received last night, contradicts a report current yesterday, that the railroad bridge at Harper's Ferry had been carried away. Another despatch, from Martinsburg, gives the intelligence that the railroad west of that place is under water. From the injury which that road has sustained, it may be expected that the mails from the West will be subject to detention and disorder for several days to come.

## The Freshet in the Potomac.

HARPER'S FERRY, APRIL 20.—The waters at this point have commenced to subside, and no further damage is apprehended to the bridge over the Potomac. An immense amount of damage has been done along the Potomac and Shenandoah river. In the vicinity of Winchester several grist mills have been flooded. Both the railroad and the Chesapeake and Ohio canal have been much injured.

## COINAGE AT THE MINT

And Branches during the month of March, 1852.

**GOLD.**  
At Philadelphia \$8,886,632  
At New Orleans 955,000  
At Charlotte 8,140  
At Dahlonega 82,030  
\$4,931,802

**SILVER.**  
At Philadelphia \$58,106  
At New Orleans 4,000  
1,161,600 pieces \$57,106

**COPPER.**  
Cents, 239,975 \$2,399 75

## PIECES COINED.

Gold 480,679  
Silver 1,159,600  
Copper 239,975  
Total number of pieces 1,880,254

**LATER FROM BUENOS AYRES.**—An arrival at New York brings Buenos Ayres dates of March 16. M. VINCENT LOPEZ had been appointed Provisional Governor, and the appointment was extremely popular. The American Consul made the first resistance against the pillage in the city after the defeat of ROSAS. With a force of six marines he shot down two and put to flight fifty of the plunderers. His example was soon followed by others.

The *Wheeling Gazette* of Thursday announces that the entire stock of the Union Line of steamboats from *Wheeling to Louisville*, to commence running with the opening of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, has been so taken as to combine the best interests of both points and intermediate ports.

**VETO OF BANK BILLS.**—A Telegraphic despatch from Harrisburg states that Governor BIGLER has vetoed the whole lot of bank bills lately passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania. It is stated that, in all, not less than sixteen or eighteen of these bills have passed, most of them through both branches, and proposed to authorize an addition to the banking capital of the State of upwards of three millions of dollars.

**A SOUTH CAROLINA QUESTION.**—A letter from Washington, published in the *Charleston Mercury*, speaking of the policy of South Carolina taking part in the approaching Baltimore Democratic Convention, says: "The State has heretofore stood out against the system of caucus nominations, as a 'fraud upon the small States and upon the Constitution.' This is not so. The question does not concern us, nor do we feel any particular interest in it; but, as a political fact, it may not be impertinent in us to inform our readers that South Carolina was represented in the Democratic Conventions both of 1844 and 1848; in the first by Messrs. PICKENS and ELMORE, and in the second by Gen. COMMANDER.

The "Liquor Bill" is enumerated amongst the bills of an important nature which were left unacted upon by the NEW YORK Legislature at the time of its late adjournment.

Also, the General Savings Bank bill; the College Appropriation bill; the Building Societies bill; the Emigrant Passengers bill; the Taxation of Railroads bill; the Anti-Rent Stay bill; and the bill relative to Divorce.

**THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK** adjourned *sine die* on Friday night. The most important of its enactments relate to the enlargement of the Erie canal. The validity of the contract entered into for that work has been affirmed, and effective and immediate measures are to be taken for the completion of the work.

Dr. N. C. BARRABINO, a surgeon of the United States navy, died on Tuesday last at the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia.

M. KOSSUTH left this city for the North on Saturday last.

**WHAT NEXT?**—The New York Daily Times says Kossuth has "exercised the most marked forbearance toward Mr. Clay in regard to his opposition to his (Kossuth's) policy and conduct." The great statesman and the American people generally ought to feel under the deepest obligation to the distinguished foreigner for his great mercy toward those who, in the name and on the soil of their own land, have presumed to dissent from the exile's doctrine and oppose him in setting up his will as the law of the land that has given him shelter and hospitality. Kossuth showing Henry Clay, of Kentucky, forbearance, indeed! the most marked forbearance! because Henry Clay disapproved of his doctrines! Well, this is certainly too bad.

(New York Commercial Advertiser.)

**THE SUFFOLK BANK DEFLATION.**—The deflation in the Suffolk Bank, at Boston, through the operations of Messrs. Rand and Brewer, is officially stated at two hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and fifty dollars. This is exclusive of the bonds of the defunct parties, (\$5,000 each.) This vast sum has been abstracted within a year, and has all, or nearly all, been sunk in stock operations by the guilty parties.

The Bank announces a semi-annual dividend of five per cent., payable on the 21st instant, after which they will be retaining a surplus fund of about \$100,000.

The Cincinnati Gazette estimates the amount of material, land, and labor which has been this year devoted to the culture of the grape and the manufacture of native wines, in the vicinity of that city, at half a million of dollars.

**EMIGRATION WESTWARD.**—The St. Louis Republican publishes a statement from which it appears that between the 20th of April, 1851, and the 1st of April, 1852, nearly fourteen thousand immigrants arrived at that city.

The House of Delegates of Maryland passed on Monday the bill to exempt from execution \$150 worth of a debtor's property. The bill has yet to receive the sanction of the Senate. It is stated that it does not apply to landlords and tenants, nor does it exempt debts contracted prior to the 1st of June next.

**GEORGE W. EST** (Dem.) has been elected a Delegate to the Maryland Legislature from Frederick county, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. McLENNAN.

## FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

By the steamships *Winfield Scott* and *Lima*, arrived at Panama, we have advices from Valparaiso to the 20th of March, nearly a month later than our previous advices. The principal news is relative to the Flores expedition.

Flores had purchased the steamship *Chile* and embarked from Callao upon it. The American ship *Lyons* had sailed from Valparaiso with three hundred men and large supplies of ammunition to join the expedition at Guayaquil.

The general impression is that Flores has allowed the Ecuadorian Government too much time to guard against his movements, and that his expedition will therefore prove a failure. The Peruvians generally were in favor of the movement, and it is supposed that Flores received covert aid from the Government of the country. The result will probably be trouble between Ecuador and Peru, in case of the failure of the expedition.

The British mail steamer *Lima*, while passing up the river Guayaquil, was mistaken for the vessel of Flores, and fired into from the forts.

We have some further details of outrages by the revolted prisoners at the penal colonies in the Galapagos Islands. A detachment of about forty-five of them seized the whale ship *George Howland*, Capt. Crowell, of New Bedford, and after putting the captain and crew on shore, according to one account, and murdering them according to another, proceeded toward Guayaquil with the intention of opposing Flores, and thus ingratiating the Ecuadorian Government. The party fell in with two schooners belonging to Flores, and having seized them, plundered those on board in a most brutal manner, including the nephew and son-in-law of Gen. Flores. On one of these vessels they cut the throats of twenty-three men. On their voyage they were captured by a Swedish frigate, carried into Guayaquil, and delivered into the hands of the Government.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

## M. KOSSUTH AT THE SOUTH.

The following brief paragraph, and especially the closing sentence, in reference to the ability of M. KOSSUTH as a public speaker, conveys the most accurate description that we have seen of the impression he has generally made upon intelligent audiences, since the huzzas in the Northern cities have subsided sufficiently to let him be heard and judged by the merits of his eloquence, and not by the rampant enthusiasm of an excited crowd:

"As a public speaker, Kossuth greatly disappointed us. He was a good special pleader; that was all. A popular stump orator, all other things being equal, he placed these parties in an impassable one. The question of the freedom of the public lands is a subject of vast importance: one which I prophesy—I do not claim to be a prophet, nor the son of a prophet—will, in less than two years from this hour, be one of the United States. Democracy has strange ideas of constitutionalism. In Gen. Jackson's day it was only constitutional to improve the Cumberland river, in Tennessee, as far up as Nashville; beyond that point Congress had no power to legislate. [Laughter.] In the next generation we hear Mr. Calhoun expounding the theory that internal improvement can only be national when more than individual States are interested therein—as with a river which may chance to run through several States. Then its navigation may be improved; not otherwise. In the third and modern revolution of the public lands, we see a division of the public lands among the several States; yet it does not hesitate to vote away thousands and millions of acres to individual States for the construction of railroads. And this is to the New States, while New York and Tennessee, and the other old States of the Union, are denied any opportunity to remain in the privilege. In the name of reason and consistency, look at these acts of the Democratic party. It has decided that there is a constitutional right in Congress to build a road from Mobile to Chicago; towards the construction of that road it has received a grant of 2,700,000 acres of the public land. Do you suppose the framers of the Constitution ever had such a conception as that in their heads? [Cries of "No, no."] Is there no difference between the Whig and Democratic parties in these particulars? Have we not, as American freemen, a right to come in and demand our share of the lands distributed by Congress? Let these questions go. Whether you will protect your industry, enable each State to receive its quota of the public lands, or adopt measures on either side of those questions of policy, is as nothing compared with the mightier matter of the maintenance of our liberties. Here is the great difference. The Whig party is a sound conservative party. [Applause.] The other is an oppressive, aggressive, utilitarian, agrarian party, taking up every term that is floating through the land, caring for no other principle than policy. If there is any soundness in the Whig party, it is because it sustains constitutional pledges and the national honor and renown.

## TWO SIDES OF KOSSUTH.

The New Orleans *Bulletin* points at two phases of Kossuth—one, that in which he appeared at New York; the other, that manifested in the Crescent city. At the latter place Kossuth said that if we "do not protest" we shall "have a war." At New York he declared that if we do not protest, and Russia does "not respect such a declaration," we will be "literally obliged to go to war," or else "be degraded before mankind" on our national dignity. Further, in the New York speech he admits that he is an "intervention man." In New Orleans he is "mortally opposed" to the principle of intervention! We give these two phases in New York and New Orleans that the reader may see just what they are:

**KOSSUTH IN NEW YORK.** (From the *N. Y. Tribune* Speech.)  
"And again, I am of opinion that if you maintain now the principle of non-interference with Russia, you are in the principle of interference, and your protest will be disregarded, then you will be engaged in a difficult and even war. But, not quite on the contrary; your protest will not entangle you in any difficult war, involving you in war; but if you do not protest, then you will be certainly led into difficulties and have a war."  
**KOSSUTH IN NEW ORLEANS.** (From the *N. O. Delta* Speech.)  
"Well, if we (the United States) make such a declaration of non-admission of the interference of Russia in Hungary, because that is the practical meaning of the word, it will not deny, and Russia will not respect our declaration, then we might have to go to war. I do not want to go to war. [Laughter.] Well, I am not the man to decline the consequences of a principle. [Great laughter and applause.] I will not steal into your sympathy by slippery evasions. Yes, gentlemen, I confess that should Russia not respect such a declaration of our policy, then you are obliged, literally obliged, to go to war, or else be prepared to be degraded before mankind from your dignity. [Applause.] Yes, I confess that would be the case."

## CAPTURE OF GENERAL CARVAJAL.

We are informed by communications received from Brownsville (Texas) that a company of the United States Fourth Artillery, under command of Lieut. GIBSON, HOLMES, and DUNHAM, was some time since ordered from that fort to an upper station on the Rio Grande in consequence of the disturbances on that frontier.

The outpost occupied by the artillery was relieved early last month by a troop of dragoons, and the company was ordered to return to Fort Brown. Part of the way down the river, they were carried on a steamer. On board the boat Lieut. GIBSON encountered General Carvajal, and, according to his duty, arrested him. On their arrival at Brownsville, Carvajal was delivered to the civil authority, who released him upon bail of \$5,000.

The London Committee for the relief of Hungarian exiles has dissolved. Lord DUDLEY STEWART, the chairman, having announced the event, the Prince Esterhazy is said to have replied, "you abstain from cherishing in others hopes you cannot entertain." Several of the Hungarian patriots resident in Paris, and among them was Mr. Szemere, the ex-Minister of the Interior, and President of the Council in the Revolutionary Government (from whom a communication was made not long since to the New York Courier and Enquirer), express their extreme surprise at the Hungarian bonds of New York, and the purchase of muskets—the price of which excited their wonder in an equal degree.

**THE NEW CAPITOL OF TEXAS.**—The first sod has been dug to make way for the corner-stone of the new State Capitol at Austin. The Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Auditor aided in the operation. The building will be constructed on a knoll at the end of Congress avenue, in a situation somewhat similar to the United States Capitol in this city. It will be built of stone, two stories high, one hundred and forty feet by ninety.

## MARYLAND COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

From the annual report of this society we find that it has participated largely in the increased impetus which has been given to the cause of colonization generally. During the year 1851 it sent to Cape Palmas one hundred and six emigrants. For twenty years the State has made an annual grant of ten thousand dollars, which, with the sums raised by the society, have increased to an aggregate of \$317,049. They have sent to Liberia one thousand and forty-nine emigrants; purchased a territory extending one hundred and thirty miles along the coast; erected public buildings; opened roads into the interior; and provided for the education of the children of the colonists and natives at the public schools. The State appropriations by which the society have been enabled to accomplish such beneficial results for the African race has expired by its own limitation. Efforts are being made to have this grant renewed, and we can scarcely doubt that the Legislature of Maryland, seeing what good results are flowing from their original action, will renew, if they do not increase, their annual appropriation.

(Virginia Colonizationist.)

**SUSQUEHANNA CANAL.**—Letters from Wrightsville, dated the 19th instant, state that the Susquehanna river was very high, but that no damage had been done to the Susquehanna Canal. The letters also state that the river was falling, and no danger was apprehended.

## THE CAMPAIGN.

### GREAT WHIG MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY.

SPEECH OF EX-GOVERNOR JONES, OF TENNESSEE.

A large audience assembled at the Broadway House on Friday evening, to hear the promised speech of Senator JONES, of Tennessee, on National Politics. Long before the hour of commencement, the house was nearly filled by an enthusiastic concourse, who greeted the appearance of the Orator with vehement bursts of applause.

The Hon. J. PHILIPS PHENIX was called to preside over the meeting, which having been duly organized by the appointment of a number of vice presidents and several secretaries, the President introduced the orator of the evening.

The Hon. JAMES C. JONES, of Tennessee, who, on rising, was greeted with rounds of applause, and proceeded to address the audience, in substance as follows:

In consenting to appear on this occasion he had been actuated by a sincere desire to perform his duty to the party to which he belonged. He had no selfish purposes to subserve. He had been a Whig from the earliest days of his political existence down to the present hour. He had been so from the sincerest convictions of his judgment and the honest promptings of his heart. In claiming a peculiar and distinguishing character for the principles he professed, he was, at the same time, far from wishing to attribute dishonest or corrupt motives to those who differed from him in opinion. The question is, which party is in the right? One of us must be right, and the other inevitably wrong.

I am aware that the opinion has gained ground, here as elsewhere, that party differences may now be safely laid aside; that all may go into a state of fusion. I cannot think so; and I will state to you some of the reasons upon which I found this opinion. It is quite true that many of the distracting questions of former years no longer remain to provoke the bitter discussions of party violence. The subject of a United States Bank formerly served to separate parties from each other; but that dispute has died out. We do not now feel that it is necessary to burden the freedom of this country with an institution of national importance to which aversion is expressed. We do not now feel that the interests of the country require the establishment of a Bank of the United States. But who can tell what shall be in the future? Hours of gloom, despondency, and despair may arise to eclipse the triumphs that the Whigs have won. And in that hour of fusion of these parties, as is suggested, what would then be the remedy? And the question of the tariff, too. Is there no difference here between the Whig and Democratic parties? I am one of those who believe that the present tariff is most unjust, unequal, and oppressive. It is the greatest placed between these parties an impassable one. The question of the freedom of the public lands is a subject of vast importance: one which I prophesy—I do not claim to be a prophet, nor the son of a prophet—will, in less than two years from this hour, be one of the United States. Democracy has strange ideas of constitutionalism. In Gen. Jackson's day it was only constitutional to improve the Cumberland river, in Tennessee, as far up as Nashville; beyond that point Congress had no power to legislate. [Laughter.] In the next generation we hear Mr. Calhoun expounding the theory that internal improvement can only be national when more than individual States are interested therein—as with a river which may chance to run through several States. Then its navigation may be improved; not otherwise. In the third and modern revolution of the public lands, we see a division of the public lands among the several States; yet it does not hesitate to vote away thousands and millions of acres to individual States for the construction of railroads. And this is to the New States, while New York and Tennessee, and the other old States of the Union, are denied any opportunity to remain in the privilege. In the name of reason and consistency, look at these acts of the Democratic party. It has decided that there is a constitutional right in Congress to build a road from Mobile to Chicago; towards the construction of that road it has received a grant of 2,700,000 acres of the public land. Do you suppose the framers of the Constitution ever had such a conception as that in their heads? [Cries of "No, no."] Is there no difference between the Whig and Democratic parties in these particulars? Have we not, as American freemen, a right to come in and demand our share of the lands distributed by Congress? Let these questions go. Whether you will protect your industry, enable each State to receive its quota of the public lands, or adopt measures on either side of those questions of policy, is as nothing compared with the mightier matter of the maintenance of our liberties. Here is the great difference. The Whig party is a sound conservative party. [Applause.] The other is an oppressive, aggressive, utilitarian, agrarian party, taking up every term that is floating through the land, caring for no other principle than policy. If there is any soundness in the Whig party, it is because it sustains constitutional pledges and the national honor and renown.

We have had many fierce conflicts for these many years. Victory has wavered between the two; and, with these principles before us, shall we surrender and abandon the field? Never, never. [Cries of "No, no."] Then how shall they be maintained? He would be plain with his hearers. He might be heard with disfavor, but, deeply grateful as he was towards the people of this city for their cordial hospitality towards him, he begged their attention to truths which might prove unpalatable.

We are upon the verge of another conflict. In a few short months the armies will be drawn up in battle array. We are compelled to have a leader to head our armies, because the enemy possesses an abundance of them. Now, gentlemen, let me ask you to consider the two candidates for Fillmore, one for Scott, and another for Webster? This is the very thing. Separated by divisions and cut up into sections, what can we hope to accomplish? Shall we separate and follow after men instead of the great principles which actuate our faith? [Cries of "No, no."] Depend on it, if you continue to be rent into factions, as now, let no man lay the flattering unction to his soul that the distractions of the Democratic party will remain as they are. No! They know too well the value of union in strength, and when the time for action comes they will be ready to follow the leader. Can we hope to succeed if we do not follow the same practice? That you have your preferences is very right; yet devotion to one man may bring distraction upon the ranks of the party.

For himself, Governor Jones declared his determination, fixed and unalterable, to abide by the decision of the National Convention, with this single reservation—the candidate must be a sound National Whig. Were he only that, no mere personal prejudices should for a moment weigh in the balance, or bias the speaker's hearty support of the nominee of the Whig party.

In his closing remarks, Governor Jones begged leave to advert to personal matters for a single moment. He said he could not approach New York, nor make a speech, and scarcely could dine with a friend, but his motives were interpreted as a bid for his personal aggrandizement. Men suspected him sometimes of being a Philmore man, a Webster man, a Scott man. But, remarked the Governor, I am a Whig man, and no man's man. [Loud applause.] I am for the nominee of the Whig party, with the simple reservation I make. But, while thus devoted to the Whig party, I am charged with a selfish motive. It is said that I am playing a game, that I am trying to get myself put upon somebody's ticket for the Presidency. So far from desiring to be put upon any man's ticket, I have not sought it, nor should I accept such a nomination, under any circumstances, unless I was convinced that my duty to myself and my country demanded it of me. [Applause.]

It is an honor higher than my aspirations. I had rather be a Senator of the United States than Vice President of the United States. No man can accuse me of having said or written a word to indicate that I ever desired a place in public life. My only wish has been attributed to the selfish, ambitious motive of advancing my pretensions to that office; yet I never received office except from my convictions of duty to myself, my friends, and my country.

The speaker took occasion to express his feelings of gratitude toward the people of his State for the marks of their regard which had been bestowed upon him. In conclusion, he urged with great earnestness the necessity of a union of party strength and national interests, counseling the harmonizing of conflicting interests, and indicating a firm belief in the power inherent in Whig principles and Whig questions of policy.

This speech was heard with deep attention, broken only by bursts of applause at the felicitous points were appreciated by the audience.

A vote of thanks to Gov. JONES was unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at an early hour.

## WESTERN AFRICA AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

The recent hostile operations of the British on the coast of Guinea, which resulted in the destruction of the African town of Lagos, has given rise to special inquiries in the House of Commons respecting the present condition of the slave-trade in Western Africa, the circumstances which led to the attack on Lagos, and the effect, good or bad, of maintaining a naval force on that coast for the suppression of the slave-trade. These inquiries (says the Boston Courier) have brought out certain documents from the British Government, which contain some very curious and interesting facts. We shall proceed to lay a few specimens before our readers:

The first of these papers is a despatch dated June 30, 1849, and addressed by Lord PALMERSTON to Mr. BERNARD, conferring on that gentleman the appointment of Consul at certain places on the African coast, and instructing him to use every possible influence to induce the native kings or chiefs to exchange the slave trade for a more humane and equally profitable description of traffic. The British Secretary had already written to the King of Dahomey, to impress upon his Majesty a knowledge of the fact that agriculture and commerce are more useful and advantageous than the stealing and selling of men, women, and children. The African monarch sent a reply, which furnishes in a striking manner the measure of his capacity to judge of the motives that induce the people of Christendom to interfere in matters relating to the slave trade, and which show, moreover, how little has been done to make the potentates of Western Africa view this question under a moral aspect:

"The King of Dahomey presents his best compliments to the Queen of England. The presents which she has sent him are very acceptable, and are good for his face. When Governor Winlet visited the King, the King told him that he must consult his people before he could give a final answer about the slave trade. He cannot see that he and his people can do without it. It is from the slave trade that he derives his principal revenue. This he has explained in a long palaver to Mr. Cruickshank. He begs the Queen of England to put a stop to the slave trade every where else, and allow him to continue it."

The letter concludes with another request of the King, from which it appears that this personage is sharp-sighted enough to see that the prosperity of his subjects may prove dangerous to his despotic power. Many a King of Christendom has felt as awkwardly as the sovereign of Dahomey at seeing his people grow rich, without speaking his mind so honestly as this sable monarch:

"The King begs the Queen to make a law that no ships be allowed to trade in any place near his dominions lower down the coast than Whydah, on any means of trading vessels, the people are getting rich, and resisting his authority. He hopes the Queen will send him some good tower guns and blunderbusses, and plenty of them, to enable him to make war. He also uses much cowries, and wishes the Queen to assist in bringing plenty of them to Whydah, to make trade. He wishes to see plenty of Englishmen making trade at Whydah."

In consequence of these negotiations, Lieut. FORBES, a British naval officer, was requested by the King to visit him at Abomey, his capital city. The following extracts from his narrative will be read with a singular interest:

"Having entered the gate of the city, which is ornamented with human skulls, and in the vicinity of the principal Fetish-house, we halted, and taking position in chains round the waist for the ceremony of being met by the Cubocobers. In a short time an immense crowd advanced towards us, with banners flying amongst them. At some distance they halted, and the Governor of the city, at the head of a few soldiers, advanced. When arrived in front of our position he counter-marched and made a circle, left to right three times round our seats, bowing each time when he came in front. On the last time he fired off a musket and danced before us; then, having shaken hands, he took a seat. The square in front of the palace, though extremely large, was densely crowded with armed men and women, seated on their hammocks, their long Dahomean muskets standing up like a miniature forest. Banners adorned those of the King being uniformly surmounted by a skull. This ghastly style of ornament appears to be particularly in request in Dahomey. The palace wall of red clay, standing about twenty feet high, extending over more than a square mile, was one continued line of human skulls; yet it might be remarked that where decay had destroyed these ghastly ornaments were not replaced. On the thresholds and sides of the portals of the palace were also human skulls, but the practice of human sacrifice is fast vanishing from the kingdom of Dahomey."

Lieut. FORBES witnessed a specimen of despotic power which ill agrees with the concluding statement of the above passage. Ten persons of rank, who had given offence to the King, were led prisoners about the city, and compelled to dance, after which their heads were cut off with large knives, in presence of the British functionary, and in spite of his entreaties and remonstrances.

The King of Dahomey has a regular cabinet; a Prime Minister, a Minister of Police, a Treasurer, a Minister of Justice, &c. He has eighteen thousand wives—if those who have counted them can be trusted—which we think rather doubtful. He has an army of Amazons, of which the following description is given:

"The King then expressed a wish I should witness a review of female troops, and two regiments were at once paraded, but not before the ground was shifted on their feet by the manoeuvring. The officers (females) were distinguished by armlets of silver reaching from the wrist to the elbow, and carrying each a small whip. The whole were uniformly dressed in tunics of blue and white, armed with a musket, club, and short sword, carried cartouch-boxes, and went through several evolutions, skirmishing, firing volleys, &c. with much precision."

The British officer treated his Majesty to a basket of champagne, which was dispatched with great gusto at a dinner to which the former was invited. But the festivities were interrupted in an extraordinary manner:

"After drinking her Majesty's health, the troops hurried, and the salute commenced; but before it was half over we were all obliged to scamper after the Prime Minister, and hide our faces against the wall, as a portion of the eighteen thousand royal wives were passing, ringing a circle round the King's ladies are all over the town at all times, and no male may gaze on them unpunished."

The King's wives are notable fighters, and when a slave hunt is undertaken they are sure to catch more than the same number of male troops. The scale of his operations may be estimated when we state that in one expedition he captured no fewer than nineteen thousand men, women, and children. After sacrificing five hundred, he sold the rest for exportation. His annual revenue from the sale of slaves is estimated at about £60,000 a year. According to the latest accounts he had thrown off the mask, and was laughing at the credulity of the English, who had fancied that he would degrade himself by employing his Amazonian body-guard in the cultivation of cotton, or in any other peaceable pursuit.

According to the testimony of Lieut. FORBES, the permanent cessation of the slave-trade is a thing hardly to be expected. No organized system is required for its support. It might be suspended for a century, and then renewed at a week's notice. The British, it seems, have no confidence in the pledges to abstain from the traffic given by